

May 9 is a 'Triple Holiday' in Artsakh

- Day of victory over Nazis in the WWII
- Day of formation of the Artsakh Defense Army
- Day of liberation of ancient Armenian fortress of Shushi

The World War II (1939-1945) was so far the largest and the deadliest war. Around 700,000 Armenians from all over the world fought against the Nazis. Half of them never returned. By 1945, our people gave four Marshalls – then the highest Soviet military rank, navy admirals, and more than 60 Army generals. In total, 70 thousand Armenian soldiers earned various awards. The holiday remains a sacred day for Armenians. On May 9, we commemorate the memory of the millions of freedom fighters, who sacrificed their lives to ensure a better and safer world for the future generations.



Artsakh Defense Army has been formally established on May 9, 1992. It has united then-scattered self-defense units that were formed in Artsakh in the late 1980s to protect civilians from Azeri and Soviet attacks. Military successes by the new army eventually forced Azerbaijan to abandon aspirations of conquering Artsakh, and lead to signing a cease-fire on May 12, 1994. As a critical component of the regional balance of powers, the Artsakh Defense Army continues to contribute to the stability in the South Caucasus, and remains the main guarantor of security of Artsakh.

Liberation of Shushi is considered to be the turning point during the Artsakh's liberation war. A cradle of the Armenian culture, education and science, the town has suffered tragedy in 1920, when in the course of the Armenian Genocide thousands of its Armenian population were massacred or forced out of their homes by Turkish and Azeri troops. Throughout the Soviet history, Shushi has seen Azerbaijan's systematic efforts to destroy the city's Armenian heritage. During the 1991-1994 war, Azeri army used Shushi's strategic location over Artsakh's capital of Stepanakert, and surrounding settlements. Thousands of missiles and bombs fired from Shushi caused thousands of deaths, and massive destructions in the nearby towns and villages.



On May 9, 1992, the newly born Artsakh Defense Army liberated the ancient Armenian fortress, and forever returned it to the Armenian homeland. Liberation of Shushi became the crucial victory that saved tens of thousand lives, and paved the path towards final victory in May, 1994. Armenians celebrate these holidays with joy and inspiration. At the same time, we honor memory of all those who paid the ultimate price for a free and independent Artsakh. On May 9, 1992, 59 heroes sacrificed their lives to win in a battle that has become one of the most glorious victories in recent history of the Armenian people.